

ACTION WHA-00

UNCLASSIFIED

E28

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00	NSAE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/004W

-----984A10 252040Z /38

R 251816Z AUG 03
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2677
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 002894

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
NSC FOR TSHANNON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/25/2013
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN GOVERNORS: BUDGET, SECURITY AND CNE

Classified By: Amb. Charles S. Shapiro for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

Summary

B1

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2. (SBU) The Ambassador hosted a dinner with Venezuelan state governors August 21 to obtain their views on the country's political situation. Manuel Rosales, Zulia; David de Lima, Anzoategui; Luis Lippa, Apure; Didalco Bolivar, Aragua; Eduardo Lapi, Yaracuy; and Alfredo Pena, Mayor of Metropolitan Caracas attended. Vargas governor Antonio Rodriguez (MVR) came to the Residence, but excused himself because of illness (conjunctivitis). DCM and PolCouns accompanied the Ambassador.

CNE: Wariness about the Supreme Court

B1

August 19 to 20

4. (C) Asked by the Ambassador about the evening of August 19, and August 20 when opposition groups delivered signatures for a recall referendum in Caracas, the majority of the governors reported that it all passed more or less uneventfully.

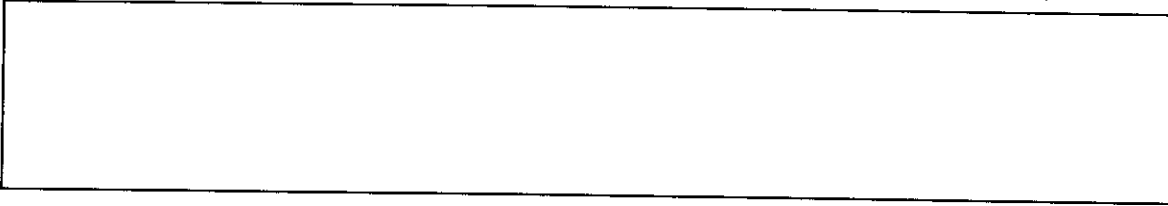
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Budget Problems

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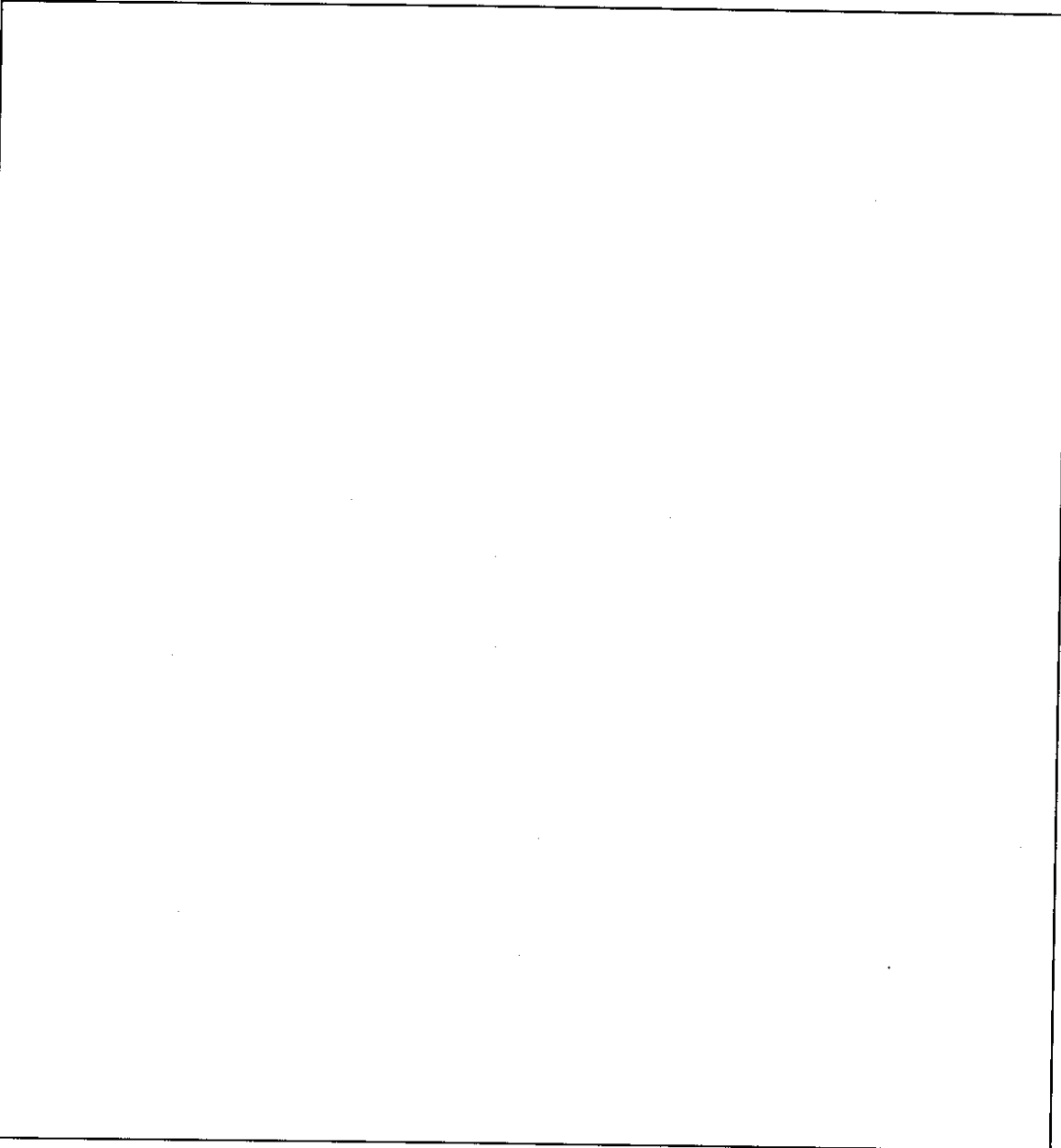
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5. (C) Little has changed for the governors, they recounted, when it comes to their problems of receiving funds from the central government, they recounted. Revenue sharing payments are approximately eight to ten weeks behind schedule. For



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Security situation



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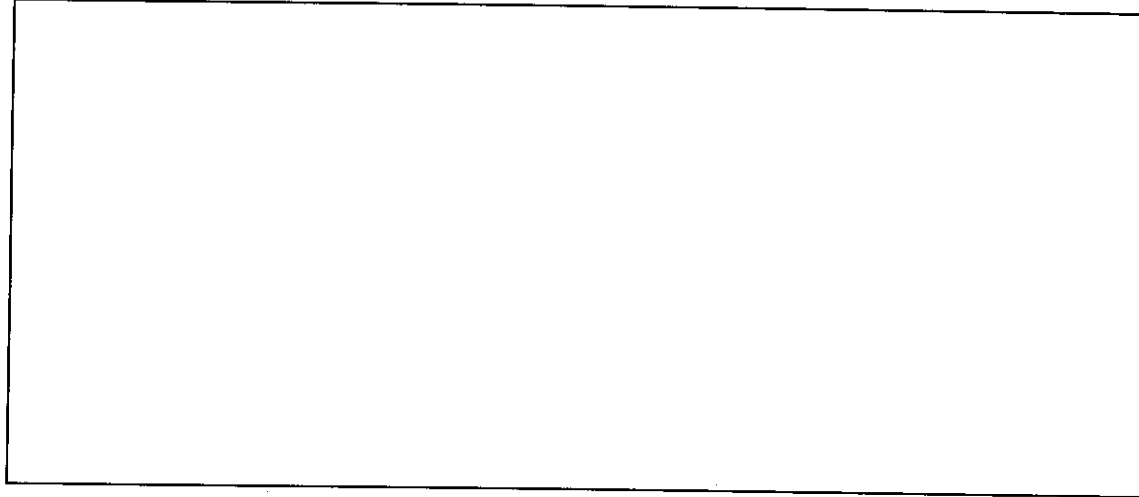
commenting that Chavez doesn't understand the police needs in the regions, said he had turned in most of his police's heavier weapons voluntarily. He admitted that his forces still have a few automatic weapons. [] commented that the police forces did not have to be left only with handguns.

B1

For example, he said, they could buy Italian shotguns that meet criteria through the Venezuelan military (CAVIM), but the prices were being quoted at the parallel exchange rate instead of the official rate.

Cuban doctors

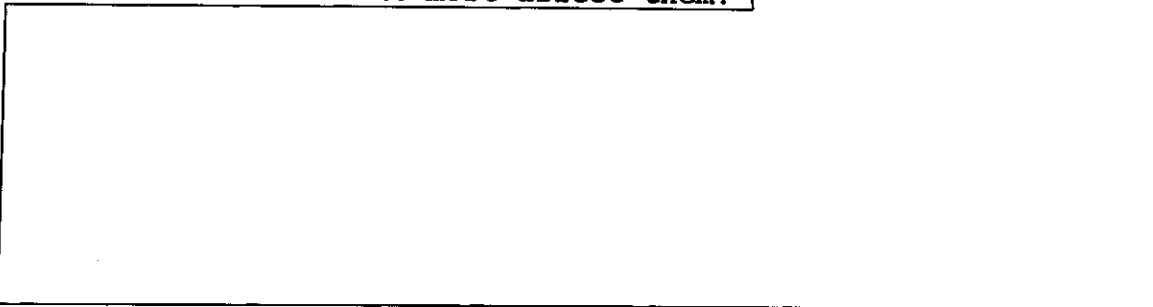
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Comment

10. (C) As on previous occasions when these governors have gathered at the Residence, they spoke openly among themselves about the matters that most affect them. []

B1



Shapiro

NNNN

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